

A song,  
 overflow  
 giving gifts from Thee;  
 And best of all, dear patient Lord,  
 A grateful heart would be.  
 A heart to thank Thee for the gift  
 Of each new year of life;  
 A heart to trust the Hand which sends  
 Each joy, or care or strife.  
 A heart to pray (and to believe  
 That Thou dost answer prayer),  
 A heart to hope, a heart to love,  
 A heart to keep and share.  
 O tender Christ, bless Thou this year!  
 Bless Thou its dawn, and bless  
 Its noon-tide and its evening, Lord;  
 And let each heart confess.  
 As days and weeks and months go by  
 To help the year grow old,  
 That of Thy glory, King of kings,  
 The half not yet is told.  
 —Reformed Messenger.

## Contributions.

### LET THE SPIRIT OF LOVE RULE YOUR HEART.

EMMA HOUSER.

As my heart is filled with the love of Jesus, I have concluded to write some of my thoughts on paper. I do not love Jesus so much, because he first loved me or because he saved me from my sins and redeemed me by the blood of the Lamb, but simply because he is altogether so lovely. How can we help loving any one who is so lovable as Jesus? How can those who are away from Him, stay away? If there is one class of people, staying away, more than any other, that class is the young men. *Young men!* Are you working for *eternal happiness*, or *everlasting woe*? Do you expect to ever meet your loving mother in heaven?

Mothers, generally, are Christians. For by experience, during all their trials and sorrows, they have discovered that Jesus is the most sympathetic friend, that they can find. I have heard many a mother praying for her wayward boys, who were living in the beggarly elements of sin, feeding upon the husks of the world. Oh! how that mother loves her child. She can not bear to see him perish. The tenderest cords of my heart were touched when one of my school-mates, a young lady of seventeen, asked me to help her pray for her brother. She had found peace and happiness in Jesus and now she was interested in her brother's salva-

tion. Until it is too late to seek Jesus. Just think of the good you *might* do. Are you using your influence for good or for evil? Are you trying to lead your associates upward to "glory" or downward to destruction? How sorrowful you would feel, if one of your companions should die (which would be no unusual thing at all, only a few days ago, one of my friends, a young man, nineteen years of age, was laid beneath the sod to await the resurrection morn) how sorry you would be, if you *knew* that you had been instrumental in leading that soul to wickedness. Take heed! You might be doing that very thing at the present time. Did you ever stop to think that you, by your sinful acts, are writing your own history in a large book that will be opened at the judgment bar of God and read to all the world. You will be ashamed of many sins. Have them blotted out at once, before it is too late.

Think one moment what Jesus has done for you. God created man in His own image, in likeness and in the high development of the human body. He gave him love, peace and happiness, but demanded love and obedience in return. Man disobeyed and rejected God, worshiped idols, until God in His anger, cursed the man and the earth he had created for him. He was going to destroy the human race with the sword, when Jesus with His wonderful love and mercy, said, No Father, let me go into the world and die for them. Did God want His only Son to suffer for an "ungrateful people?" God loved His Son but God also loved the world. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus, therefore, came into the world and died for "fallen humanity" but still men rejected him, even as they reject him today. Every place, we see young ladies working in the church but the young men stand back, wait until they have spent the best part of their life in sin and folly. Ah! waiting for a time that probably never will come. I wish to God, that the convicting and the converting power of Jesus might touch their hearts. The power of this nation lies in their hands. With God's blessing they can do much. Without it they can do nothing.

I think if there was more love in the hearts of professing Christians, for each

and sinners. none of the Holy Spirit in either heart. Jesus is all love, where the heart is opened, He will fill it with love.

"Sweet is the tender love, Jesus hath shown,  
 Dearer far than any love that mortals have known;  
 Kind to the erring ones, faithful and sure,  
 Lean upon the Savior, and thy soul is secure."

I pray God, that these words may reach the hearts for which they are intended.

### THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM.

ELLEN GNAGEY.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Matt. 21: 2.

The wise men followed the star until they found the Christ-child with his mother, then they fell down and worshipped him. But the wise men could not abide with him. They had to return. Not so with us, when once found, we can abide with him always. His star is before us in the shape of a book. If we look into it, we can not help but find him. If we do not find him it is nothing but our stubborn will that stands between us. Next we follow him into Egypt to get out of the clutches of that cruel Herod. Think of jealousy that would kill all the innocent babes in Bethlehem and in the coasts thereof. After a good many years have elapsed, we see the Christ-child once more. But now he has grown to manhood, and he is standing in the river Jordan, having been baptized by John, we see the heavens open, and the spirit of God descending in the shape of a dove, and lighting upon him. Then we hear a voice from heaven, This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

Next we behold him in the mountain preaching that wonderful sermon. Then we see him going on preaching and teaching, doing good to such wise men and women who believe on him, living just as he would have others live, denouncing all wickedness. We watch him as he heals the sick, as he casts out devils, and as he does many wonderful works. Finally we see him in an upper room, with his twelve apostles. We see them seated around a table. Finally this Christ-child rises from